

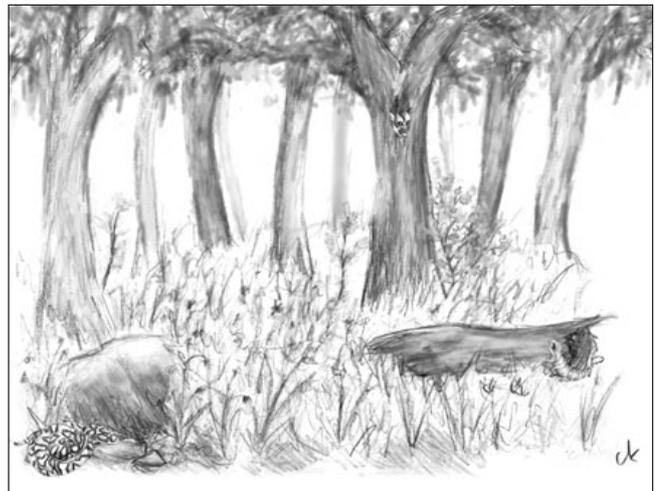
What have we got here?



Box-Gum Grassy Woodland Layers

At first, Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands may appear to be just large scattered eucalypt trees, native grasses and wildflowers. But they consist of many 'layers' of wildlife and diverse animals, plants and birds.

- In Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands, there are three distinct 'layers'.
- The **top layer** is the canopy which consists of tall old eucalypts.
- The **middle layer** is medium-sized shrubs consisting of wattles and smaller eucalypts.
- The **bottom layer** is the ground cover of grasses and wildflowers.
- There are over 50 different types of native grasses found in Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands.
- In between the big older eucalypts, many smaller and younger eucalypts can be found.
- Hollows are only found in trees that are over 100 years old. Hollows are used by animals such as Squirrel Gliders to provide homes to nest in.
- Flowers on eucalypts, wattles and other shrubs provide nectar for food for many animals like birds and gliders.
- Bark is used as habitat for animals like insects and small lizards.
- Leaf litter helps to hide and camouflage insects and reptiles.
- Fallen timber is a great home for lizards and snakes and helps to camouflage birds such as the Bush-Stone Curlew.
- Rocks are used by reptiles to bask on and the crevices to live in.
- Dead trees provide homes for animals like bats and are great song posts for birds.
- In Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands there is a lot of diversity. Diversity means that there are lots of different plants and lots of different food sources. This is helped when there is a balance between the three layers.
- A lot of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands have now been cleared for houses, roads and farms.



Activities



Box-Gum Grassy Woodland Layers

1. How many layers would you find in Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands?
2. What are the names of these three layers?
3. What are some reasons why Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands have been cleared?
4. How many native grasses are found in Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands?
5. What might you find in between bigger eucalypts?
6. How old does a tree have to be to have a hollow?
7. What do flowers provide for animals?
8. Leaf litter helps to c_____ insects and reptiles.
9. How do reptiles use rocks?
10. What does diversity mean when talking about Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands?
11. Which bird hides amongst fallen timber?

